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Bayer deal means expansion of western Ky. plant

The Associated Press

OWENSBORO, KY. -- A western Kentucky biotechnology facility plans to expand and add additional jobs following a deal with a subsidiary of German health and agriculture giant Bayer.

<http://www.messenger-inquirer.com>

Bayer Innovation GmbH signed an agreement with Owensboro-based Kentucky BioProcessing LLC that will mean an expansion of greenhouses at the company's headquarters in MidAmerica Airpark.

The cost of adding approximately 5,000 square feet and bringing in new equipment will be between \$2 million to \$3 million.

Hugh Haydon, chairman of Kentucky BioProcessing, told the Messenger-Inquirer newspaper that the deal will give the Owensboro business clout in the pharmaceutical industry.

The deal deal lays the foundation for the production of several pharmaceutical products to be grown inside tobacco plants at the Owensboro company.

"Any company doing plant-made pharmaceutical business will have to come to Owensboro by default," Haydon said. "This lines us up to be the location for plant-made pharmaceuticals."

Bayer is working on several products that could be manufactured in Owensboro, including vaccines for non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and influenza. It announced the deal with the Kentucky company in a joint news release last week.

Construction on the expansion in Owensboro will begin later this month. Haydon hopes it will be completed by the spring.

Kentucky BioProcessing has 16 employees now - up from six when the company was formed two years ago. Chief operating officer Barry Bratcher said the company will need additional scientists, process engineers and agronomists. He expects much of the process will rely heavily on computers and robots when commercial production begins.

Information from: Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, <http://www.messenger-inquirer.com>

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